

SECTION 3 - FEDERAL SUPPLY CLASSIFICATION

SUBSECTION 31 - PURPOSE

The purpose of this section is to establish policy/procedural guidance covering the management, control, and maintenance of the Federal Supply Classification (FSC) System with objectives to:

- a. Control the FSC structure in such a manner as to insure its compatibility with the requirements of the total Federal Supply Catalog System.
- b. Provide for the resolution of any differences of opinion with regard to proposed changes in the FSC structure.
- c. Provide for the orderly evolution of the FSC structure, as necessary, to satisfy operational requirements of the participating activities.
- d. Insure uniform application of the rules and principles embodied in the FSC system.
- e. Provide equitable solutions to any controversial problems arising in the area of property classification assignment,

SUBSECTION 32 - SCOPE

The policy/procedural guidance contained herein apply to all DoD/Civil activities and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) /other Foreign Countries as participants in the Federal Catalog System.

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331.01 Background.

The Federal Supply Classification System is sufficiently comprehensive in scope to permit the classification of all items of personal property used by participating activities. In order to accomplish this, groups and classes have been established for the universe of commodities, with emphasis on the items known to be in the supply systems of participating activities. This classification system, with its present structure of groups and classes, represents those groupings and relationships which are based on current, as well as anticipated, management needs. The Federal Supply Classification structure is modified as the needs of management change, by the addition of newly developed groups and classes, the subdivision of existing classes, and the revision of definitions of classes. The uniform Federal Supply Classification is governed by daily management requirements and provides uniform management categories throughout military activities and civil agency organizations, functions, operations, and supply pipelines. It permits greater uniformity within and between the Military Services and Civil Agencies in the operations of reporting, accounting, financial management, inventory control, and budgeting.

331.02 Responsibility for the Federal Supply Classification.

The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) is responsible for the development and * maintenance of a Government wide commodity classification system. The DLA has * delegated this function to the Defense Logistics Services Center (DLSC). Authority for establishment of the classification is contained in Chapter 145, Title 10, U.S. Code and Section 487, Title 40, U.S. Code.

331.03 Structure for the Federal Supply Classification.

a. Groups and Classes. The code numbering system of the FSC permits a total of 99 groups, each of which may be subdivided into 99 classes. The classes within any group are considered to be closely related. Each class covers a relatively homogeneous area of commodities in respect to their physical and/or performance characteristics, the relationship of parts, attachments and accessories to the next higher assemblies for which they are specifically designed, or in the respect that the items included therein are such as are usually procured or issued together.

b. Code Numbering System. The FSC uses a 4-digit coding structure. The * first two digits of the code number identify the group, and the last two digits identify the class within the group. Expansion of the present number of groups and classes has been provided for by the gaps left between the code numbers assigned to groups and within groups to adjacent classes.

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c. Format and Coverage of the FSC Structure

* (1) One of the two documents published as classification handbooks is
* Cataloging Handbook H2-1, which is designated "**Part 1, Groups and Classes, of the**
* **FEDERAL SUPPLY CLASSIFICATION**". (The index which constitutes Part 2 of the FSC is covered in subparagraph 331.03f.) This part consists of the classification structure of the Federal Supply Classification, showing all groups and classes presented in the arrangement of the 4-digit FSC code numbering system. Where appropriate, the main inclusion and exclusions which delimit the coverage of a particular class are shown immediately following the title for the class. In addition, certain notes are inserted following some group and class titles which define or delimit the coverage of a particular group or class.

(2) For many classes the phrase "and components" is shown as a part of the class title, indicating that assemblies, subassemblies, and component parts which are specially designed for Items in the class are to be included. In those instances where the phrase "and components" does not appear as part of the class title, the inclusion of assemblies, subassemblies, and component parts specially designed for the end items in the class is to be understood, unless otherwise provided for in the classification structure. (For example, Group 25, Vehicular Equipment Components, was established for items which otherwise might have been classified in Group 23, Ground Effect Vehicles, Trailers, and Cycles.)

(3) Part 1 of the Federal Supply Classification is maintained by the issuance of Memoranda for Distribution List C/F. These memoranda promulgate the
* **changes made** after the proposed changes have been coordinated and approved. A completely revised Cataloging Handbook H2-1 (Part 1 of the Federal Supply Classification) is issued as required.

d. Auxiliary Subdivisions of Federal Supply Classification Classes.
Where greater commodity classification detail is required by a participating Service or activity than is provided for in the basic 4-digit FSC structure, auxiliary subdivisions of classes. (commonly referred to as "Auxiliary Classifications" or "subclasses") may become necessary. These auxiliary subdivisions of classes may be developed by the participants for their own use. If a universal requirement is found to exist for a particular auxiliary subdivision, consideration will be given to the establishment of additional FSC classes corresponding to the auxiliary subdivision in accordance with the DIDS Procedures Manual. When used in conjunction with the National Stock Number. (NSN), any auxiliary subdivision of a class found necessary by a participant shall be signified by augmentation of the NSN and not by change to the 4-digit FSC class code number. In no event shall any of the 13 digits of the NSN be changed or digits or other symbols be inserted within the 13-digit structure;

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e. Index to the Federal Supply Classification System. Any *
classification system of considerable size must have an index to assist the
users. Without a suitable index to serve as a guide for the assignment of
items to classes, different users may reach conflicting conclusions as to the
classification of identical items. To eliminate such inconsistency in the
classification of items of supply, the index to the FSC, as described below, *
has been developed. The index facilitates location of the FSC classes in which *
an item shall be placed and location of a range of items in the classification.

f. Description of the FSC Index *

(1) Index of the FSC. Cataloging Handbook H2-2 is a Numeric *
Index and is arranged numerically by groups and classes and contains within
each class an alphabetical listing of entries included in the class. In
addition, the notes following group and class titles in Part 1 are incorporated
in Part 2 following the corresponding group and class titles.

(2) Format and Coverage of FSC Index. The Numeric Index is
constructed as follows:

(a) The index is intended to cover all items for which
Approved Item Names and their related colloquial names have been published in
the FEDERAL ITEM NAME DIRECTORY FOR SUPPLY CATALOGING (Cataloging Handbook H6).
However, for brevity and to avoid repetition of names which are different only
by added modifiers, generic names are occasionally used in place of more
specific item names or colloquial names.

(b) To obtain universal coverage of commodity items in the
index, it has been necessary to include names of items of personal property *
not currently listed in the FEDERAL ITEM NAME DIRECTORY FOR SUPPLY CATALOGING
(H6), including standardized names, part names, names of commodities not carried
as items of supply in the Federal Government, and titles or portions of titles
of FSC classes.

(c) Whenever necessary, modifiers are added to Approved
Item Names or colloquial names in the index to delimit them sufficiently
to make classification by a single FSC code number possible for individual
entries.

(d) The definitions, as published in the FEDERAL ITEM NAME
DIRECTORY FOR SUPPLY CATALOGING (Cataloging Handbook H6), are applicable to
the corresponding basic names of item names in the index to the Federal Supply *
Classification.

(e) When it will facilitate the use of the index, names are *
listed in both straightforward and inverted sequence. (For example, "Bolt,
machine" and "Machine bolt" are both listed.)

(f) With rare exceptions, trade names are excluded from the .
index. A typical exception is the name "zipper" which through widespread *
usage has become, in effect, a common name.

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g. Clarification of Terms

(1) The term "specially designed item" is an abbreviation of the term "specifically designed for specific use on or with specific individual types of equipment" as used in the notes in the Cataloging Handbook H2-1 and H2-2. In order to be accepted as specifically designed, an item does not have to be designed specifically for use in a single piece or single model of equipment. The item may be designed for use with categories of equipment such as all kinds of printing presses or all kinds of diesel engines.

(2) The term "next higher classifiable assembly" is understood to mean the next higher assembly on or with which the item is used as a subassembly, part, attachment, or accessory. Also the classification of the higher assembly is indicated specifically in groups and classes of the FEDERAL SUPPLY CLASSIFICATION (Cataloging Handbook H2-1) or is listed specifically as an entry in the Numeric Index (Cataloging Handbook H2-2). The term "higher assembly" is used for brevity and may actually include components, subassemblies, assemblies, and end items or systems.

h. Condition Codes. Some of the Index entries in Part 2, Numeric Index (Cataloging Handbook H2-2) and the FEDERAL ITEM NAME DIRECTORY FOR SUPPLY CATALOGING (H6) indicate a single digit enclosed in parentheses, immediately following the entry.

* (1) Condition Code (1). The Approved Item Name (AIN) may be classified in one and only one specific class of the FSC structure.

* (2) Condition Code (2). The AIN may be classified in two or more specific classes of the FSC structure, as specifically indicated.

* (3) Condition Code (3). The AIN may be classified in any logical class of the FSC structure by virtue of "Multiapplication" or "Special design". (NOTE: Applicable only to items currently coded Condition Code 3. Not authorized for future use'.)

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1. Explanation of Condition Codes (2) and (3). The Condition Code included in Cataloging Handbooks H2-2 and H6 entries applies only to the Approved * Item Name from which the entry is derived, and not to any modifiers added in accordance with paragraph f(2)(c) above. Examples of proper application of Condition Codes are as follows:

Example 1. The AIN "Tape, Sound Recording" is classified only in Federal Supply Classes 5835 and 7450. The two specific H6 entries for this AIN * both include Condition Code(2) following the class modifiers ("except office type" for FSC 5835, and "office type" for 7450). However, the mandatory classification for each category of sound-recording tape is indicated in the "Class" column on the right-hand side of that particular entry in the Handbook. That is, office-type recording tape is classified only in FSC 7450, and all other types (applications) are classified without exception in FSC 5835.

Example 2. The AIN "Clutch Half, Friction" is classifiable in a number of different classes depending upon equipment application. The H6 entry * "Clutch halves, friction, vehicular (3) ---2520" means that a clutch half designed for ground vehicular equipment shall be classified in FSC 2520 and not in any other ground vehicular class, such as classes in Federal Supply Groups 23, 24, 38 and 39. The other entry, "Clutch halves, friction, multiapplication (3) ---3010", means that clutch halves used in several applications, one of which may be vehicular, shall be classified in FSC 3010. While currently there are no other index entries, the Condition Code (3) also allows friction clutch halves of "special design" to be classified in any other logical class of the FSC structure such as 1680 and 6615. "Any logical class" means a class in which the notes, inclusion and exclusion directives, and index entries do not preclude the item from being classified therein.

Example 3. The AINs "Circuit Breaker" and "Circuit Breaker Subassembly" are properly assigned to two different classes based on the voltage and type of current of the item being classified. This is indicated in H6 by a * series of four entries derived from each AIN, such as: "Circuit breakers, above 250 volts DC(2) ---6110" and "Circuit breaker subassemblies, 250 volts DC and below (2) ---5925". Condition Code (2) does not imply that a given item with the voltage and current shown can be classified in two classes. The modifying phrase in each case governs the classification and restricts the item of supply to one specific class.

Example 4. Classification for the AINs "Decoder Group" and "Decoder Subassembly" is authorized in any logical class of the FSC structure, based on "special design" or specific application. X6 entries derived from these AINs * therefore reflect Condition Code (3). However, the three specific Federal Supply Classes listed (5810, 5840 and 5841) do not indicate that the items are limited to those three classes. At such time as additional applications are established, the list of classes will be expanded.

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331.04 General Principles and Rules

a. Unique Classification of Each Item of Supply. Each item of supply shall be classified in one, and only one, 4-digit class of the FSC. The assignment of an FSC code number to an item of supply shall not be influenced by the method and type of item identification used to establish the concept of the item.

b. Classification of Parts Where a Specific Class Exists. Where a specific class of the FSC is applicable to a particular part, that part shall be classified in the specific class and not with its next higher assembly, except as indicated below:

(1) A "Specially designed item" shall be classified with its next higher assembly in the class established for the higher assembly when, and only when, the FSC requires such classification. The requirement that a "specially designed item" be classified with the equipment for which it is specially designed is indicated in the FSC by:

(a) A Note. A note at the head of the class or group in Cataloging Handbooks H2-1 or H2-2 directing that specially designed items are to be classified with their next higher classifiable assemblies.

(b) A Modifier. The modifier "multiapplication" added to the * name of the item indexed in Cataloging Handbooks H2-2 and H6, indicating that the specially designed items are to be classified with their next higher assemblies.

(c) An Exclusion. An exclusion to the class published in Cataloging Handbook HZ-1 indicating that the item is not to be classified therein.

(d) An Exception. A term of exception applied to an entry in * Cataloging Handbook H2-2 or H6 excluding the item.

(2) When an item of supply has been classified as a "specially designed item" with its next higher classifiable assembly, the FSC class code number originally assigned shall not be changed to that of a multiapplication class until concrete evidence becomes available that the item does have multiple applications.

c. Classification of Parts Where No Specific Class Exists. Where no specific class of the FSC is applicable to a particular part, that part shall be classified with its next higher classifiable assembly in the class established therefor.

d. Classification of Parts Having Multiple Applications. The FSC class number for an item which is to be classified with its next higher assembly but which is used on or with different assemblies classified in two or more classes of the FSC, shall be assigned in accordance with the following:

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(1) When a variety of applications to assemblies classified in different classes is known to exist at the time the subassembly, part, attachment, or accessory is initially classified, the FSC code number assigned shall be that which will be most useful in supply management, selected on the basis of:

- (a) The most significant application of the item.
- (b) The code number least likely to be obsoleted.
- (c) The greatest number of applications of the item.

(2) When a code number is assigned to a multiple application item after a consideration of the known applications, and the application(s) within the class assigned become obsolete, a new class code number shall be selected in accordance with subparagraph 331.04d(1).

(3) When a subassembly, part, attachment, or accessory is assigned and FSC code number on the basis of its relationship to a higher assembly, and it is later discovered that the item is used on additional assemblies which are not in the same class as the assembly initially considered, the FSC code number originally assigned shall be used for all other applications of the item,

e. Classification of Sets, Kits, and Outfits. The following rules shall govern the classification of sets, kits, and outfits:

(1) Sets, kits, and outfits consisting of variations (such as size or color) of an item shall be classified in the same class as the individual items.

(2) Sets, kits, and outfits consisting of several different items classifiable either in a single class or in several classes of the same group, or in classes of more than one group, shall be classified in the "Sets, Kits, and Outfits" class of the group which logically covers the application or functional purpose for which the set, kit, or outfit was assembled.

(3) If no "Sets, Kits, or Outfits" class is established in the appropriate group which covers the application or functional purpose of the set, kit, or outfit, then the set, kit, or outfit shall be classified in the single class of the appropriate group which logically covers the application or functional purpose for which the set, kit, or outfit was assembled.

(4) If the appropriate 4-digit FSC class cannot be determined by application of the above rules, the set, kit, or outfit shall be assigned to the class which is considered most useful for supply management.

(5) If no class is found to be appropriate under any of the above rules, the set, kit or outfit shall be classified in FSC Class 9999, Miscellaneous Items.

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331.05 Maintenance of the Federal Supply Classification System. Maintenance of the FSC System is divided into two categories: **revision to the FSC structure and * revisions to the FSC index.**

a. **Revisions to the FSC Structure.** Revisions to the FSC structure are those **major changes which constitute a significant revision to any of the present groups and/or classes, such as:**

(1) The establishment of a new FSC group or class.

(2) The deletion of an existing group or class.

(3) A **revision** to the delimitations of an existing FSC group or class, which **results** in a broader **or** narrower scope.

(4) A **revision** in a principle or rule for classification.

* NOTE: Proposed **revisions to the FSC** structure must include the corresponding modification **required in the FSC index, Cataloging Handbooks H2-1 and H6.**

* b. **Revisions to the FSC Index.** Revisions to the FSC index are those **relatively minor changes which affect the individual classification of specific items** of supply. **These** revisiona are brought about by conditions such as the following:

(1) The addition of a new **item** name.

(2) A **revised** interpretation of an existing item name.

(3) A revision of an item name which substantially changes the concept of the item.

(4) A revision of the definition of an item name which substantially changes the concept of the item.

(5) A new function **for an item** of supply.

(6) A **determination** of the **desirability** of a revised classification for an item of supply, within the **delimitations** of the present FSC structure.

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331 .06 International Use of the Federal Supply Classification System

a. NATO Use. In February 1956, the Air Board, Military Agency for Standardization, NATO, convened a Working Party in London which prepared and recommended the adoption of the second draft standardization agreement STANAG 3150. This agreement provided for the adoption of the United States Federal Supply Classification System as the NATO Supply Classification System, with the United States having responsibility for maintenance of the system, including right of decision on all matters pertaining thereto. This agreement was subsequently ratified by fourteen NATO members, including the United States.

b. Revision to the Classification Structure Under STANAG 3150

(1) Revisions Proposed by the United States. Revisions to the classification structure which are proposed by the United States shall be forwarded to the NATO member nations prior to approval. A period of 60 days is provided for concurrence and/or comment by individual NATO countries. Upon completion of this coordination, the following actions shall be taken, as appropriate.

(a) The United States (DLA/DLSC) approves the revision, specifying the implementation dates, if complete or majority concurrences are received.

(b) The United States considers and incorporates, if acceptable, modifications to proposed revisions, as submitted by the NATO countries.

(c) The United States resolves any conflicts of opinion if a majority of nonconcurrence, or major proposals for codifications of proposed revisions, are submitted by the NATO countries.

NOTE : Revisions which are proposed by a NATO member nation other than the United States are decided by the United States within a 30-day period, following the 60-day period provided for NATO concurrence actions. Notice of the final disposition of all proposed revisions to the classification system is forwarded by the United States to all NATO countries, stating, as appropriate, the reasons for nonacceptance of comments.

(2) Revisions Proposed by NATO Member Nations. Revisions to the classification structure proposed by any one of the NATO member nations, are forwarded to all signatories of STANAG 3150 by the originating country. Concurrence and/or comment is forwarded by other signatories to the originating country and to the United States within a period of 60 days. Approved revisions are implemented on the effective date specified in the notification of approval forwarded to all signatories by the United States.